8. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein said image processing means is provided with statistical information calculating means for calculating statistical information of the digital image signals, and determination means for determining the image processing conditions in accordance with said statistical information.

9. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein the image processing apparatus further comprises displaying means for displaying the different kinds of digital cameras.

10. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein the camera kind information is appended to the digital image signals.

11. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein said input means manually inputs the camera kind information.

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The specification is objected to because the title of the invention is allegedly not descriptive.

Claims 1, 4/1, 6-7, 10/6 and 10/7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,493,332 to Dalton et al. (hereinafter "Dalton").

Claims 2, 4/2, 5/1, 5/2, 8/6, 8/7, 11/6 and 11/7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dalton.

Claims 3/1, 3/2, 9/6 and 9/7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dalton in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,488,414 to Hirasawa et al. (hereinafter "Hirasawa").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has canceled claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer and has amended claims 1-6 and 8-11. Applicant has also amended the title. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 8-11 are pending for further consideration.

The Objections to the Specification

The specification is objected to because the title of the invention is allegedly not descriptive.

The title of the invention has been amended to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4/1, 6, 10/6 and 10/7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Dalton. Claims 2, 4/2, 5/1, 5/2, 8/6, 8/7, 11/6 and 11/7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dalton. Claims 3/1, 3/2, 9/6 and 9/7 stand

rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dalton in view of Hirasawa. Applicant has canceled claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer, and has amended claims 1-6 and 8-11. To the extent that the Examiner may consider any of these rejections to apply to the newly amended claims, the rejections are traversed as being based upon references that neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features now clearly recited in newly amended claims 1 and 6, and hence dependent claims 2-5 and 8-11.

Amended claims 1 and 6, and hence dependent claims 2-5 and 8-11, recite a combination of elements including "recording condition information, which represents image processing conditions for the different kinds of digital cameras;...selecting optimum image processing conditions from the condition information, in accordance with the camera kind information;...and carrying out image processing on the digital image signals under the selected optimum image processing conditions."

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, CPU 27 in the camera head of Dalton merely stores manufacturer-encoded clock pulse parameters unique to CCD imagers in the camera head and transfers the appropriate clock pulse parameters to (LUT) static RAM and latch 44, as shown in Fig. 4. The arrangement of Dalton merely facilitates camera head replacement and adjustment of operating parameters for the imager once installed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Dalton neither teaches nor suggests recording condition information, which represents image processing conditions for the different kinds of digital cameras, selecting optimum image processing conditions from the condition information, in accordance with the camera kind information, and carrying out image processing on the digital image signals under

the selected optimum image processing conditions, as recited in newly amended claims 1 and 6. For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1, 4, 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and Claims 2, 5, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Dalton be withdrawn because Dalton does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 6, as amended.

In rejecting claims 3 and 9, the Office Action relies upon Hirasawa for a teaching of displaying the different kinds of cameras. Newly amended claims 3 and 9 depend from and thus incorporate all of the features of claims 1 and 6, including the above cited feature of claims 1 and 6, as amended. Since Hirasawa does teach or suggest this feature of claims 1 and 6, as amended, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Dalton in view of Hirasawa be withdrawn at least because neither of the references, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 6, as amended.

With no other rejection pending, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-6 and 8-11 are allowable.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The title of the invention has been replaced with the following title:

-- IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CARRYING OUT IMAGE PROCESSING ON DIGITAL IMAGE SIGNALS UNDER DIFFERENT IMAGE PROCESSING CONDITIONS --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-6 and 8-11 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An image processing method for carrying out image processing on digital image signals, which have been acquired with different kinds of digital cameras, the method comprising the steps of:

reading the digital image signals;

receiving camera kind information, which represents the different kinds of digital cameras;

recording condition information, which represents image processing conditions for the different kinds of digital cameras;

selecting optimum image processing conditions from the condition information, in accordance with the camera kind information; and

carrying out image processing on the digital image signals [and] under [different] the selected optimum image processing conditions [in accordance with kinds of the digital cameras].

2. (Amended) A method as defined in [Claim] claim 1 wherein statistical information of the digital image signals is calculated, and the image processing conditions are determined in accordance with said statistical information.

3. (Amended) A method as defined in [Claim] claim 1 [or 2] wherein the different kinds of [the] digital cameras are displayed.

4. (Amended) A method as defined in [Claim] claim 1 [or 2] wherein [pieces of] the camera kind information [, which represent the kinds of the digital cameras, are] is appended to the digital image signals.

5. (Amended) A method as defined in [Claim] claim 1 [or 2] wherein [pieces of] the camera kind information [, which represent the kinds of the digital cameras, are] is inputted manually.

6. (Amended) An image processing apparatus for carrying out image processing on digital image signals, which have been acquired with different kinds of digital cameras, the apparatus comprising:

[(i) an] input means for [inputting pieces of information, which represent kinds of the digital cameras,] reading the digital image signals and receiving camera kind information, which represents the different kinds of digital cameras;

recording means for recording condition information, which represents image processing conditions for the different kinds of digital cameras;

selection means for selecting optimum image processing conditions from the condition information, in accordance with the camera kind information; and

[(ii) an] image processing means for carrying out image processing on the digital image signals [and] under [different] the selected optimum image processing conditions [in accordance with the kinds of the digital cameras, which are represented by the pieces of information inputted from said input means].

8. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 6 [or 7] wherein said image processing means is provided with [a] statistical information calculating means for calculating statistical information of the digital image signals, and [a] determination means for determining the image processing conditions in accordance with said statistical information.

9. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 6 [or 7] wherein the image processing apparatus further comprises [a] displaying means for displaying the different kinds of [the] digital cameras.

10. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 6 [or 7] wherein the [pieces of] camera kind information [, which represent the kinds of the digital cameras, are] is appended to the digital image signals [, and said input means reads the pieces of information, which represent the kinds of the digital cameras and which have been appended to the digital image signals].

11. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 6 [or 7] wherein said input means [is means for] manually [inputting] inputs the [pieces of] camera kind information [, which represent the kinds of the digital cameras].